APWH: Chapter 11 Reading Guide Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Americas on the Eve of Invasion

*Postclassical Mesoamerica, 1000-1500 C.E.*

1. According to the introduction, what type of political structure characterized central and south Mexico?
2. For what *two* reasons is use of the term *Indian* inaccurate?
3. What society preceded and influenced the Aztec?
4. What type of political system emerged in Mesoamerica after the fall of the Toltecs?
5. Describe the Aztec’s reputation. What city became their capital and base for expansion?
6. What obligations were required of conquered people within the Aztec Empire?
7. What powers did the king have?
8. What was the role of the military in religion?
9. How did the Aztecs justify the need for human sacrifice to its citizens? Besides religious convictions, for what other reason might sacrifices have been such an integral part of Aztec society?
10. Describe the Aztec calendar and resulting view of history.
11. What are *chinampas*?
12. Describe the overall Aztec economy, including government involvement and the tribute system.

*Aztec Society in Transition*

1. Which groups were at the top of the social hierarchy?
2. What job did most Aztec women do? What other occupations were available to them?
3. Why was food preparation so much more time consuming in Aztec society compared to Europe?
4. How was the emperor viewed during the Aztecs most expansive century? Explain why city-states remained in place.

*Twantinsuyu: World of the Incas*

1. Explain the reasons that likely influenced the Incas to conquer surrounding areas, including the roles of ancestor worship and split inheritance.
2. What key characteristics were similar for both the Aztec and Incan religion?

1. How was the emperor viewed in Inca society? Is this similar to or different from the Aztecs?
2. What infrastructure did the Incas develop to facilitate travel?
3. What demands did the Incas place on conquered peoples? What did they receive in return? Compare this system to the Aztecs’.
4. What is *mita*, and how did it work?
5. How were the overall rights and roles of Inca women similar to Aztec women?
6. Why didn’t the Incas have a merchant class?
7. What technological advancement did American civilizations lack? What is quipu?
8. What technological developments defined the Incas’ legacy?
9. For each of the following concepts, indicate whether the Aztecs were similar or different, and explain any differences.

* Built on preceding societies
* State-controlled agriculture
* Redistribution of goods by state
* Clans incorporated into imperial system
* Nobles position in the social hierarchy
* Centralized, integrated empire
* Tolerance of local customs
* Development of trade and markets
* Writing systems

*The Other Peoples of the Americas*

1. According to the most careful estimates, was the population in the Americas during the postclassical era a minor or major percentage of humanity as a whole?
2. What lifeway was missing in the Americas? Why?
3. Which region in the Americas had the most diverse cultures?
4. What disadvantages resulted from the Americas’ isolation from developments in Afro-Eurasia?